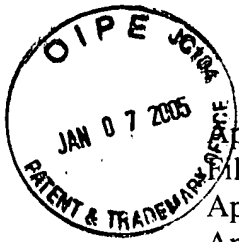


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Appn. Number: 10/811,021  
Filing Date: March 25, 2004  
Applicant: Sam L. Shipley  
Application Title: Method and System for Embellishing Architectural Structures  
Attorney Ref. # : 0526-01UA

**VIA U.S. MAIL**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
MAIL STOP MISSING PARTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Re: Decision on Petition to Make Special (Accelerated Examination)**


Dear Sir or Madam:

In response to the Decision on Petition to Make Special (Accelerated Examination) mailed November 4, 2004, please find the enclosed:

1. Copy of the Decision on Petition to Make Special (Accelerated Examination);
2. Petition to Make Special; and Discussion of Prior Art
3. Check # 4693 in the amount of \$ 130.00 ; and
4. A return receipt postcard.

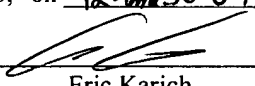
If you have any questions do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

  
Eric Karich, Patent Registration 41,503  
Customer # 21704  
2807 St. Mark Drive, Mansfield, Texas 76063  
Toll-Free: 800-949-0255 Facsimile: 800-949-0243

Certificate of Mailing -- 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Attn: Application Processing Division's Customer Correction Branch, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 12-11-30-04 date of deposit.

Signature: 

Eric Karich



**In the United States Patent and Trademark Office**

Appn. Number: 10/811,021  
Filing Date: March 25, 2004  
Applicant: Sam L. Shipley  
Application Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR EMBELLISHING  
ARCHITECTURAL STRUCTURES  
Att'y Doc #: 0526-01UA

**PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

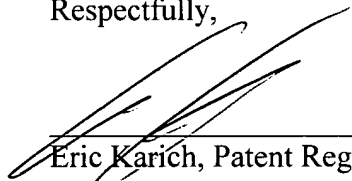
Sir:

Applicant hereby respectfully petitions that the above application be made special under 37 C.F.R. 1.102(d).

A thorough search was made in Classes 428/15, 264/46.5, 264/71, and 264/46.4. Form PTO-1449 and copies of relevant art are included herewith. Pursuant to MPEP 708.02, a discussion of the related art and of its relevance to the present application is included with this petition. Also, all claims are directed to a single invention; and in the event that the Office determines that the claims are not directed to a single invention, applicant will make an oral election without traverse.

Applicant respectfully requests that this petition be granted. A petition fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.17(i) for small entity is enclosed herewith.

Respectfully,

  
Eric Karich, Patent Registration 41,503  
CUSTOMER NUMBER 21704  
Ph. 800-949-0255

EXPRESS MAIL Label # EL 984795639 US; Date of Deposit: 12-30-04. I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service using "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to "Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450."

Signed:   
Eric Karich

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## In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Appn. Number: 10/811,021

Filing Date: March 25, 2004

Applicant: Sam L. Shipley

Application Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR EMBELLISHING  
ARCHITECTURAL STRUCTURES

Att'y Doc #: 0526-01UA

### DISCUSSION OF PRIOR ART

For centuries hand cut stone has been used in architecture to add enduring beauty and elegance. Architectural cast stone is an affordable and durable alternative to natural stone, and can be molded to look like hand cut stone. Modern molding techniques can substantially eliminate unwanted air voids in cast stone products, and the color and finish of cast stone can be selected to match (or to contrast with) adjacent architectural features, including aged and/or weathered features.

For example, Austin, U.S. 6,113,995, teaches a process for creating multicolor designs and patterns in cast stone products so that they imitate natural stone in appearance. The process includes the steps of preparing multiple colors of the casting material, geometrically loading these colors in a three dimensional array in a holding container according to formulas corresponding to particular patterns to be created, placing the geometrically loaded colors into a mold by means which include pouring, extruding and spraying, consolidating the mixtures in the mold and allowing them to set, and removing the cast structure from the mold followed by polishing and sealing if required. A removable matrix in the holding container provides the ability to reliably repeat patterns according to the loading formulas.

Sheahan et al., U.S. 5,787,667, teaches a casting that has a surface appearance simulating carved stone, and is especially adapted for use as a transition between a brick or stone wall and window and door openings. Further, it provides architectural detail to building constructions, especially as a surround for window and door openings. The casting is produced from a mixture of graded aggregates and a resin binder, combined in

predetermined proportions to make a soupy mixture that is cast in a mold. The mold is vibrated to cause migration of air bubbles away from the surface of the molded product, and to cause realignment and orientation of the aggregate materials in a way to enhance the structure and surface density of the product. After the casting has set, it is removed from the mold and cured and the surface is sandblasted to erode away some of the resin binder and portions of the aggregate at the surface to produce an appearance that is an accurate simulation of carved stone. The cast product, when used as a trim component for architectural detail in building construction, may have shaped portions to accommodate straight runs of brick or stone work, minimizing the need for cutting or shaping the bricks or stones to fit around the casting.

Stott, U.S. 6,355,193, teaches a method for making a faux stone concrete panel. A wall has a thin concrete layer with a cross-sectional contour having protrusions and indentations forming other objects, such as stone work, brick or wood. A reinforcement layer may be affixed to the concrete layer to provide tensile strength and impact resistance to the concrete layer. A foam layer is affixed to the reinforcement layer to further reinforce the concrete layer, and so that the wall or panel is light weight. A second concrete layer or a rigid backing layer may be disposed opposite the concrete layer so that the foam is disposed therebetween. A method for forming the wall or panel includes spraying the concrete onto a mold surface which has indentations and protrusions for forming the other objects. The reinforcement layer is sprayed onto the cured concrete layer. The mold is closed and foam is introduced into the mold.

Sheahan, U.S. 6,054,080, teaches a casting that has a surface appearance simulating carved stone, and is especially adapted for use as a transition between a brick or stone wall and window and door openings. The casting provides architectural detail to building constructions, especially as a surround for window and door openings. The casting is produced from a mixture of graded aggregates and a resin binder, combined in predetermined proportions to make a soupy mixture that is cast in a mold. The mold is vibrated to cause migration of air bubbles away from the surface of the molded product, and to cause realignment and orientation of the aggregate materials in a way to enhance

the structure and surface density of the product. After the casting has set, it is removed from the mold and cured and the surface is sandblasted to erode away some of the resin binder and portions of the aggregate at the surface to produce an appearance that is an accurate simulation of carved stone. The cast product, when used as a trim component for architectural detail in building construction, may have shaped portions to accommodate straight runs of brick or stone work, minimizing the need for cutting or shaping the bricks or stones to fit around the casting.

Ferguson, U.S. 6,599,452, teaches a method for manufacturing molded simulated stone architectural articles for buildings. The method incorporates a unique mold assembly including a resilient silicone rubber mold supported within a rigid mold cradle/foundation, and a vented lid having a High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) interior surface. The silicone rubber mold is initially treated with a liquid polyester gel coating that is cured and then coated with an acrylic/vinyl ester back coating. Once the back coating is cured, a predetermined volume of a modified high-density, natural mineral fiber-reinforced, 2-component hybrid polyurethane liquid expanding composition is dispensed therein and the mold is covered with the vented lid. The system is pressurized and heated to produce a molecularly-fused, lightweight rigid article having the desired architectural shape.

While various architectural shapes and embellishments can be readily made using cast stone, it is time consuming and difficult to select the specific shapes, sizes, and features of an architectural embellishment. It is also difficult to correlate this information with mold design and/or selection. Finally, it would be useful to be able to readily incorporate

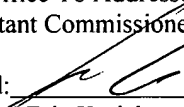
this information into graphic form, to facilitate the work of the architect.

The present invention provides a system and method for meeting these and other long felt needs.



Eric Karich, Patent Registration 41,503  
CUSTOMER NUMBER 21704  
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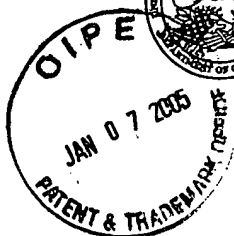
EXPRESS MAIL Label # EL 984795639 US; Date of Deposit: 12-30-04. I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service using "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to "Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450."

Signed:   
Eric Karich



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
P.O. Box 1450  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov



**MAILED**

Law Offices of Eric Karich  
2807 St. Mark Dr.  
Mansfield, TX 76063

NOV 04 2004

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

In re application of	:	DECISION ON PETITION
Sam L. Shipley	:	TO MAKE SPECIAL
Application No. 10/811,021	:	(ACCELERATED
Filed: March 25, 2003	:	EXAMINATION)
For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR EMBELLISHING	:	
ARCHITECTURAL STRUCTURES	:	

This is in response to the petition filed on March 25, 2004 to make the above-identified application special on the basis of special examining procedure for certain new applications - accelerated examination as set forth in MPEP § 708.02 VIII.

The requirements for granting special status under this section are: (A) a petition to make special accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(h); (B) all claims being directed to a single invention, or an election without traverse if the Office determines that all the claims are not directed to a single invention; (C) a statement that a pre-examination search was made listing the field of search; (D) one copy of each of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims if said references are not already of record; and (E) a detailed discussion of how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the references in accordance with 37 CFR 1.111 (b) and (c).

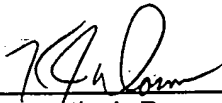
The petition filed March 25, 2004 lacks requirement (A), above. In this regard, applicant has not authorized or provided payment of the appropriate petition fee.

For the above stated reason, the petition is **DISMISSED**.

Petitioner is given one more opportunity to perfect the petition. Any request for reconsideration must be filed within TWO MONTHS of the date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted.

Applicant should promptly submit a renewed petition to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231. The envelope should indicate that the correspondence be brought to the attention of Technology Center 3600.

Until the renewed petition is submitted, the application will be returned to the examiner's docket to await treatment on the merits in the normal order of examination.



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Kenneth J. Dorner  
Special Programs Examiner  
Technology Center 3600  
(703) 308-0866

KJD/rwg: 10/30/04